

# Fishing in the River Red Gums

Murray Valley National Park Photography: D Finnegan/OEH



[nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

Fishing is a great way to get back to nature. Relaxing with a line in hand, watching the water and anticipating the gentle tug to signify a potential catch – there's nothing quite like it.

And what better place to drop a line than in the wetlands within the stunning river red gum forests of southern NSW?

## ABOUT THE AREA

With over 500km of Murray and Murrumbidgee River frontage, the river red gums are of the best spots in NSW for fishing. Here you'll find creeks and waterways filled with fish that rely on the shelter of the gums' fallen branches and trunks (during flooding) to breed and are – most importantly – ready to bite.

Wrestle with a massive Murray Cod, reel in a Golden Perch or say g'day to tasty yabbies. And this is just for starters. Add in the multiple boat ramps and stunning setting and it's truly a fishing paradise.

## GETTING THERE

The rivers and streams within three national parks — the Murray Valley, Murrumbidgee Valley and Yanga National Parks — are ideal places for fishing in the river red gums.

All three can be found in the Western Riverina district of southern NSW. So if you're within coo-ee distance of towns such as Deniliquin, Balranald, Moama, Mathoura, Narrandera, Leeton or Hay, then you're in the right place. And if you're not, then it's

definitely worth the trip. Just grab your tackle box and get set to enjoy some of the best fishing around.

## TOP FISHING HOTSPOTS

The parks have plenty of top fishing spots, with enthusiastic fishers making use of the boat ramps and years of local knowledge. For more hotspots be sure to visit [nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au).

## WHEN TO GO

The fishing is fantastic all year round, but please note fishing for Murray Cod is closed every year from September 1 to November 30 to protect the species during the breeding season.

## MURRAY VALLEY NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARK (NEAR MOAMA/ECHUCA)

The boat ramp at Moama Regional Park (known to the locals as '5 mile' ramp) is a gateway to the mighty Murray, renowned for luring fisher folk from all over Australia.

### How to get there

Take Perricoota Road from the Cobb Highway at Moama. Travel along Perricoota Road for about 8km and then turn towards the Murray River.

## MURRUMBIDGEE VALLEY NATIONAL PARK (NEAR LEETON)

A fishing favourite for generations, the concrete ramp at Gogeldrie Weir provides good river access to the weir pool, a perfect place to wet a line.

## How to get there

Gogeldrie Weir is a major irrigation structure 26km south-west of Leeton. Head west out of Leeton on Griffith Road for around 10km, then turn left onto Murrami Road for 3.8km. Turn right onto Whitton Road and then head left towards the river.

### Important information

Gogeldrie Weir is open 8 to 6pm daily. There are also barbecues, great picnic areas and a kiosk.

## YANGA NATIONAL PARK (NEAR BALRANALD)

On the banks of the picturesque Murrumbidgee, the Woolshed picnic area is a great spot to try your luck and see if the fish are biting.

### How to get there

From Balranald, travel 2km east along the Sturt Highway. Turn into Windomal Road and after about 3km you'll see the sign for Yanga Woolshed.

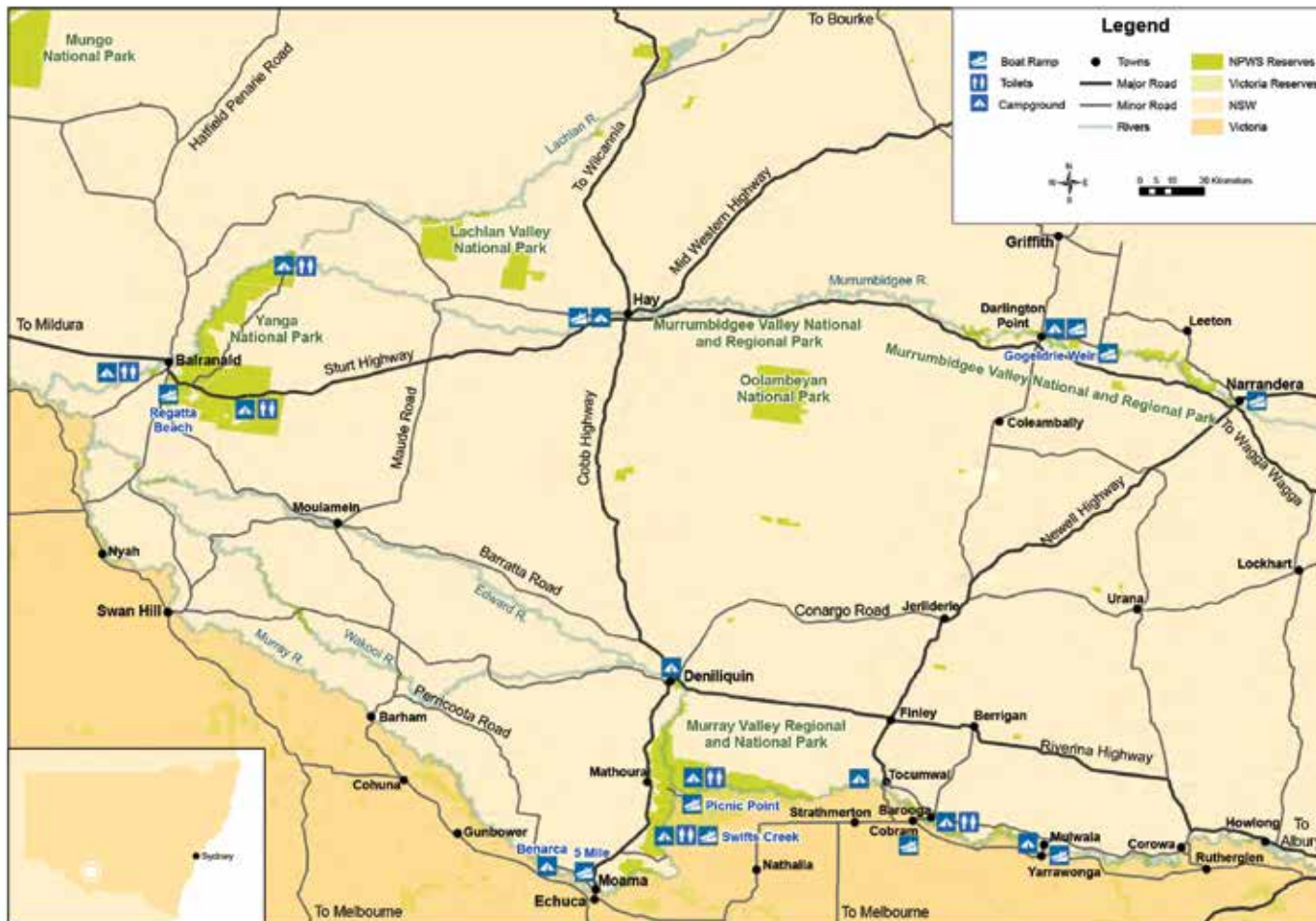
### Important information

Facilities include free barbecues, picnic tables and non-flush toilets. Be sure to bring your own drinking water.

## KNOW YOUR FISHING RULES

Fishing is managed by NSW Fisheries to ensure sustainability. To fish in any water in NSW, you are required to hold a NSW recreational fishing licence.

Before you go fishing in NSW, you should be familiar with the [bag and size limits](#) and other [rules](#) that apply to the area you are fishing in. For further information visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/regulations](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/regulations).



## SAFETY INFORMATION

Many NSW parks are remote and rugged places, weather can change quickly and conditions in the bush or on the water may be unpredictable. When visiting a national park, be aware of the risks and take responsibility for your own safety and the safety of any children in your care. Remember to plan ahead, choose your activities to match your stamina and fitness level, ensure you take enough fresh drinking water and food for your trip, and tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back.

## PARK RULES

Camping is free in the river red gum reserves, and there's no need to book. Just pull up your caravan or car and pick a spot in the designated campground.

Cooking outdoors is part and parcel of the camping experience, and it's a good idea to pack a gas or liquid fuel stove for your trip. Unlike many other bush camping spots, small campfires are allowed in the river red gum reserves outside of the solid fuel ban period, but you may need to bring your own firewood.

If you do have a small campfire, make sure you completely extinguish all fires before leaving an area or going to bed. Heavy fines may apply if campfires or other unshielded flames are left unattended.

Please don't feed native animals – it can damage their health and make them dependent on campers for food. To avoid attracting scavengers, store food and garbage in a secure container.

And don't forget, dogs are only allowed in certain areas, so best to check before you bring Fido along for the ride.

## TO FIND OUT MORE

[nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/murray-valley-national-park](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/murray-valley-national-park)

[nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/murrumbidgee-valley-national-park](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/murrumbidgee-valley-national-park)

[nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/yanga-national-park](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/yanga-national-park)